

American NEWS & VIEWS

A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy

October 5, 2004

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*EPF104 10/04/2004

Text: U.S. Commends U.N. Secretary General for Meeting on Burma

(Burma must release political prisoners, hold free elections, U.S. says)

The United States commends U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan for convening a meeting September 29 with his special envoy to Burma, Ambassador Razali Ismail, and concerned U.N. members, the Department of State said in a statement issued October 4. The meeting addressed the lack of progress toward democracy and national reconciliation in Burma.

"Burma must take tangible steps, including the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners, the full and free participation of the National League for Democracy and representatives of the ethnic minorities in the National Convention and the initiation of a meaningful dialogue to advance national reconciliation and the establishment of democracy," the statement says.

Following is the text of the statement:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
October 4, 2004

STATEMENT BY ADAM ERELI, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

UNSYG [United Nations Secretary General] Meetings on Burma

The United States commends UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for convening a meeting on September 29 with his special envoy to Burma Ambassador Razali Ismail and concerned UN members to discuss the lack of progress toward democracy and national reconciliation in Burma. We hope that the Secretary General will remain focused on this matter and that his engagement will generate more international community cooperation on this vital issue. We urge the Burmese authorities to allow Ambassador Razali to return to Burma without delay and to conduct follow-up visits, as he deems necessary.

The United States remains deeply concerned by the continued detention of courageous democracy advocate and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, the failure of the junta to permit the National League for Democracy (NLD) to open its offices nationwide and operate freely, the junta's refusal to release over a thousand political prisoners, the recent arrest of political activist U Ohn Than and the sentencing of four NLD members for illegal political activities.

Our position is clear: the Burmese people's desire for a national reconciliation and the establishment of democracy must be respected. As President Bush said at the UN General Assembly when he quoted Aung San Suu Kyi, "We do not accept the notion that democracy is a Western value. To the contrary; democracy simply means good government rooted in responsibility, transparency, and accountability."

To achieve these objectives, Burma must take tangible steps, including the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners, the full and free participation of the National League for Democracy and representatives of the ethnic minorities in the National Convention and the initiation of a meaningful dialogue to advance national reconciliation and the establishment of democracy.

*EPF103 10/04/2004

Text: U.S. Congratulates Indonesia's President-Elect Yudhoyono

(Direct presidential election strengthens Indonesia's democracy)

The United States congratulates Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on his victory in the Republic of Indonesia's presidential election in a White House statement issued October 4.

"We commend the people of Indonesia on this latest achievement in their country's impressive transition to democracy. This was the first time Indonesians have had the opportunity to choose their leader through a direct presidential election," the White House said.

Following is the text of the statement:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Clive, Iowa)
October 4, 2004

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

On behalf of the American people, President Bush congratulates Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on his victory in the Republic of Indonesia's presidential election. Indonesia's General Election Commission announced the results in the final round of balloting and declared Mr. Yudhoyono the winner on October 4. Indonesia held successful general elections in April and a first round of presidential balloting in July.

We commend the people of Indonesia on this latest achievement in their country's impressive transition to democracy. This was the first time Indonesians have had the opportunity to choose their leader through a direct presidential election. Over 116 million people, nearly 77 percent of eligible voters, participated peacefully in the final round of balloting on September 20. This was another resounding demonstration of the Indonesian people's commitment to democracy. The direct presidential election system is among several important reforms Indonesia has undertaken to strengthen its democracy since 1999.

The United States and Indonesia have long-standing bonds of friendship. We thank President Megawati Sukarnoputri for her leadership and service to her country during this historic period. We look forward to working with President-elect Yudhoyono in further strengthening our ties and enhancing the welfare of our peoples.

*EPF106 10/04/2004

Transcript: U.S. Reaching Out to Middle East/North Africa, Secretary Powell Says

(With other G8 partners, U.S. wants to help region reform, he adds)

The United States and other industrialized nations are reaching out to help countries of the broader Middle East and North Africa achieve reform and modernization in accordance with their histories and cultures, says Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Speaking October 1 at the Southern Center for International Studies in Atlanta, Georgia, Powell said that a new process of reaching out to the region, called the Forum for the Future, is a way of using the experience and resources of the major industrialized nations to help citizens of the region participate in the political, economic and social lives of their countries.

The United States and other members of the Group of Eight (G8) introduced to other nations the concept of an ongoing Middle East/North Africa Forum for the Future the previous week at meetings in conjunction with the meeting of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

The G8 consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia.

Powell said he met with ministers of 28 countries about the initiative.

Reaching out, which some call multilateralism, Powell said, means bringing people together around a shared vision and then accomplishing that vision.

Powell also said nations are coming forward to contribute funds for the reconstruction of Iraq. He noted that soon a second donors' conference will be held in Tokyo. The conference will be a follow up to the first Iraq donors' conference held in Madrid in 2003.

Following is the State Department transcript of Powell's remarks:

Thank you all for that great Atlanta welcome, and Peter, thank you for the gracious introduction. It is something of a homecoming for me. I was privileged to be stationed at Fort McPherson a number of years ago as the Commanding Officer of Forces Command, and then when I left here and went to the Pentagon to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and then ultimately retired from the Army from that position, I nevertheless would come down to Atlanta on many occasions, as Peter noted, with my work with America's Promise, but especially with my work as a member of the Board of Governors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, a role that gave me a great deal of satisfaction, and one of the greatest programs we've seen for volunteerism in this country. And when I created America's Promise and became its Chairman, my very best partner in that program were the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. It's a privilege to be a part of the organization that grew those clubs from roughly 1,000 back in 1997 or thereabouts, now approaching or slightly over 3,000, a remarkable increase in a service that is provided to American young people.

I also am pleased to be back with the Center. I am grateful to the Southern Center for giving me this opportunity to speak to the leadership of Atlanta. For over four decades, the Southern Center for International Studies has been a magnet for statesmen and scholars from across the nation and from the international community. You have helped to prepare rising professionals for successful careers in a dynamic, rapidly changing, globalized world. And your wonderful outreach efforts have enriched the international educations of students in high schools and colleges and universities throughout our country. It is so important for the next generation of America's leaders to understand America's role in the world and the responsibility they will have to further our value system.

And so, I thank the Southern Center for the contributions that it has made to that process of educating the next generation of America's leaders, the next generation of leaders around the world.

There are many leaders from around the world in the United States now. It is the period of the international calendar when the United Nations General Assembly holds its annual debate, which began last week and is continuing into this week. The President was at the General Assembly last week, last Tuesday, and he gave an important speech. He touched on many things. He talked about our policies in Iran and Iraq and our policies with respect to Afghanistan, but he did more than that. He spoke about other things that don't get the same kind of notice. He talked about the fact that America's great purpose in the world is to work in partnership with other nations, to quote, as the President said, "to build a better world beyond the war on terror."

The war on terror is very important to us. The war on terror is facing us and affecting not only every American, but facing every citizen of every civilized nation in the world. Not just America that is under assault. See what happened in Beslan, Russia. Those school children, hundreds of them showing up for the first day of school were murdered by terrorists. We see it in Indonesia. We see it throughout the Middle East. We see it in so many places. And it was this President that recognized that what happened to us on 9/11 wasn't just an attack against us, it was an attack against the civilized world. And he has mobilized the civilized world to respond to this global attack by U.S. undertaking a global campaign against terrorism in its every form.

We've done so much over the last several years, whether it is improving the means by which we defend our homeland with the creation of a Homeland Security Department under the able leadership of Secretary Tom Ridge, to make sure we know who's coming into our country, to improve our visa processes and the means by which people enter our country and how they leave our country. We know where they are when they're in this country. This isn't unreasonable. We need it to protect ourselves and also to protect the traveling public, to protect those who are coming to our nation as well, and to be part of an integrated system throughout the world of understanding who is moving about that might cause harm to one civilized nation or another.

At the same time, though, as we are protecting ourselves, we are doing everything we can to say to the rest of the world that America hasn't changed. We're still an open nation, an open society. We know it's a little harder to get a visa now. We're going to make it easier. We're going to make it a faster process, a quicker process, but we want you to come to America. America is enriched when people come here to go to our great universities. I know of no city

in the United States that has as great a university community as Atlanta.

We enrich ourselves when people come here to take advantage of our cultural activities, whether it is going to see the sites in New York City or going to Disney World. We are enriched when people come, and in turn, we enrich people who come to get their education, to get an experience here. I reach out to get more students to come to America, to learn, to get the skills they'll need for the 21st century back in their own home, but also, in addition to those skills, get a better sense of who we are as Americans.

So while we are securing our borders and knowing who's coming to this country, the President has committed to making sure that we remain the America that we all love, we all believe in, the America that is welcoming and opening and wants people from around the world to come and visit us. And that was the message that he communicated at the UN last week: partnership.

During the course of his time in New York, the President met with many world leaders. In a day and a half, he spoke to the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister of India. He spoke to the Prime Minister of the independent government of the new Iraq. He spoke to a variety of leaders. And then, after he had to go and take on the rest of his demanding schedule, I stayed behind.

In the course of the week, I met with the 25 nations of the European Union. I met with the Permanent 5 representatives of the Security Council. I met with the Gulf Cooperation Council, those nations of the Persian Gulf region. I met with the G-8 ministers, the industrialized nations of the world, the ministers of the industrialized nations. I met with the Adriatic Charter Group members, a group of three countries in the Balkans -- Macedonia, Croatia and Albania -- who I entered into a charter with them on behalf of the United States last year to help them move toward membership in NATO and the other transatlantic institutions, to include the European Union, nations that used to be an enemy. I like to joke with them all the time when we're together, say, "You guys used to be on my target list. When I was down here in Atlanta, you were on my target list." "But now, look, you're democracies, and what are you doing, what are you striving for? You're striving to be part of a Europe that is whole, free and at peace, part of a transatlantic community that is whole, free and at peace, and the United States will be your partner to help you get there." And that's what they want us to be, their partner. And that's the kind of partnership that the President is so interested in, the kind of partnership that he worked so hard on.

I met with the ministers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and Uganda, Great Lakes group, because we entered into an arrangement with them to help them move forward, to settle the situation in that part of the world, to bring peace to that part of the world so development can take place.

We spent a lot of time last week at the UN talking about peace in the Middle East. On Friday morning, a meeting took place that people said wouldn't happen, couldn't happen, the United States is being unilateral again, you're trying to impose your will on others, you're trying to tell everybody they have to reform, to look like us, and that's not right. Well, that's not what we were telling the world. We were telling the world that, in the broader Middle East area and North Africa there is a need for reform. The people of the region are saying this. And we, the United States and the industrialized nations of the world need to reach out and help them, not impose upon them, but to help them achieve reform and modernization in accordance with their own history, their own culture, where they want to take their nations. Each one of those nations is different and unique and precious.

We, the industrialized nations, the G-8 nations of the world and other industrialized nations of the world have experience, have resources, have ways of reaching out and helping them. And so, last Friday morning we began that process. It's called Forum for the Future. The future rests more and more on democracy and the ability of all citizens of a nation to participate in the political, economic and social life of the nation. And last Friday morning 28 nations assembled at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, and I chaired it, along with my colleague from Morocco, the Foreign Minister from Morocco. And we sat, we talked about what the region needs, what the broader Middle East needs. It needs peace, first and foremost, of course. And I recommitted the United States, working with our Quartet partners, as they are called, to do everything we can to take advantage of Prime Minister Sharon's new approach toward getting out of settlements in Gaza as part of the roadmap process of finding a way to get to a Palestinian state that is free, secure, living in peace with the state of Israel.

But then we talked not just about the Palestinian-Israeli problem, but we went beyond that to talk about what their people need, what their youngsters need, how we have to have economic growth, how we have to have educational programs. How do we make sure that women are included in the society so they can make a positive contribution to each of those societies?

It wasn't a matter of the United States imposing; quite the contrary. It was the United States, as we've always done in our history, especially under the leadership of President Bush, reaching out and talking to people, talking to friends. Some people call it multilateralism; it is. But even in the multilateral organization, you've got to have a leader, or multilateralism is just a mob. Multilateralism means bringing your partners together to rally around a shared view, a shared vision, and then leading them toward the accomplishment of that vision and allowing other members in the multilateral team to lead as well.

And that's the approach that we have taken to the world. It's the approach that we have used to go about the foreign policy of the United States of America. It's what we've done with the global war on terror: assembled a great coalition, increase exchange of law enforcement and intelligence information, cooperate with each other, recognize that we have this common problem. Whether it's in Madrid, Russia, Indonesia, wherever, it's a common problem. And these terrorists, these murderers must be defeated and we do it in partnership with the rest of the world.

Or whether it's in Europe, where the United States played a leading role, and President Bush said early on in his Administration, we want NATO to expand. There were a number of countries that were up for membership and we debated in the Oval Office one day, how many should we go for? One, two, three, four? The President's decision was let's go and get all of them who are qualified for membership. Let's keep this club open and vibrant. And so NATO expanded by seven countries.

We've worked with the European Union for the expansion of the European Union to 25 countries. And although we're not a member of the European Union, I spend more of my time with the European Union arrangement than I do with the NATO arrangement because the European Union is now a great partner of the United States, just as we have been partners with all of our colleagues in NATO.

So this is a nation and an Administration that has been reaching out to deal with the problems of the 21st century. As you certainly know from the debate last night, you certainly know from what you see every day on television, the two great challenges that we are facing in this overall contest between good and evil, between those who would terrorize and those who would build, take place now in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

I visited Afghanistan for the first time in the fall of 2001, a few months after 9/11 and a few months after we had defeated the Taliban and run them off and had taken

Afghanistan back from the terrorists, back from al-Qaida and given it back to its own people. And a brave and courageous President came forward, a man came forward who had been in the resistance by the name of Karzai. Mr. Karzai was in Kabul now. He was in great danger. People were after him. There was one telephone for the whole government. The financial system was so broken there were no banks, nothing was functioning. There was no government functioning. The Taliban had destroyed all of that. Women were terrified. They had not been educated. Girls had not been going to school for years and years and years. Millions of Afghans were living in camps in Iran and Pakistan, not able to go home, and had been there for decades.

In just three years, so much has happened. President Karzai is busy this coming week running for election. He is running in a free and open election. Ten million Afghans have registered to vote. I've been to one of those registration places for women, and you should have seen the women lined up with their identification, proving that they were citizens of this country so they can vote. When last had they voted? Never, really. This was the first time, a free, fair, open election. And we're there to protect them and to make sure that election takes place.

We're not alone. We're not doing it alone. NATO is there. NATO is there. A NATO force under the command of a French General standing alongside us in Afghanistan to help the Afghan people defeat the remnants of al-Qaida and the Taliban who don't want the Afghan people to vote for their own leaders on October 9, but that presidential election will take place on October 9, and a parliamentary election sometime early next year, because the people of Afghanistan want it, and the international community is determined that they shall have it. There's no reason that democracy can't work in Afghanistan as long as we stay the course, as long as we continue to work with the courageous leaders of Afghanistan, as long as we work with courageous partners in the region.

We are working with all of the nations in the region. All of them used to be part of the old Soviet Union, all the ones to the north, and of course, Iran to the west and Pakistan just to the east of Afghanistan. Two days after 9/11, I called President Musharraf at the President's instruction, and said, "Mr. President, it's time for you to make a strategic choice as to whether you're going to be with the civilized world fighting terrorism or not, and if you are with us, then we have to do something about the Taliban and we need your help." And President Musharraf made that strategic choice and joined in our coalition. And much has happened in Pakistan since.

We've also seen tension between Pakistan and its neighbor, India. Two years ago, we worried about a nuclear war between the two of them. As a result of what we did, working with our partners -- we didn't do it alone -- President Bush's leadership, my travels, the travels of my British colleagues, my French colleagues, the work we did with our Chinese friends -- all of us came together and took that moment of crisis where two nations in the subcontinent were facing each other with huge armies, both nuclear-armed, to a point where, in the last few weeks, they have begun serious discussions. And last week in New York, at the same meeting, UNGA, the Prime Minister of India sat with the President of Pakistan and they talked together. And they came out and said, "We have difficult issues in front of us, but we will talk about these issues. We'll work towards solutions. We want peace in the subcontinent, not war."

And it was our efforts, and the efforts of the partners that we work with -- not alone; partners that we work with -- that made that come about.

So this is an Administration of partnership. It's an Administration that is prepared to deal with the tough issues. Afghanistan is one of them. Iraq is the other one. Iraq is a case of a rogue regime, led by a tyrant, a dictator, who invaded his neighbors, who used weapons of mass destruction against his neighbors. I've been to a town in northern Iraq, goes by the name of Halabja. And on a spring day in 1988, a Friday morning, Saddam Hussein gassed his own citizens. He killed 5,000 people. I've seen their survivors. I've seen some of those who lost loved ones. I visited the cemetery where so many of them are buried.

He used those same weapons against Iran. This is a fact. This isn't speculation, this isn't intelligence, this is fact. He then invaded Kuwait, and we kicked him out of Kuwait in the hope that he would now comply with the UN sanctions that followed, the UN resolutions that followed that says, you must give up all these weapons, you must give up any intention or capability you have to have such weapons or to possess such weapons. You have to deal with the human rights problem within your own country. You have to start treating your people better. You have to start acting in a responsible way and forswear terrorism. He did none of that.

And for 12 years, the international community passed resolution after resolution, and he ignored resolution after resolution. The intelligence suggested that the intention was still there, the capability was there, and if ever he was released from sanctions, there was no doubt that he would recreate that capability and stockpiles. We also thought the

stockpiles were there. Everything we saw from the intelligence community suggested that not only did he have the intention and capability and a history of it, but that if released from sanctions, he would build up the stockpiles, and he already had stockpiles. That's what the intelligence said.

It was that intelligence that was presented to the Congress, that intelligence that was presented to the world, that intelligence that President Clinton used in 1998 when he correctly took action against these facilities that were harboring weapons of mass destruction in a four-day bombing campaign called Operation Desert Fox.

And then the inspectors were forced out because of Saddam Hussein. And for five years, there were no inspectors. We weren't sure what was going on there. And the President decided that this was a risk the world could not take, the region could not take, we could not take. So what did he do? He took it to the Security Council. He took it the General Assembly initially in September of 2002 and presented the case and said, "You need to do something." And then the Security Council took it from there, passed a resolution unanimously, 1441, saying you're in material breach and there are consequences if you stay in breach or if you commit new breaches. He stayed in breach, committed new breaches. Couldn't get the Security Council to pass another resolution, but the body of international law, the body of resolutions over a period of 12 years was absolutely clear, so the President, with like-minded, courageous, brave leaders from around the world took action, took action to remove this threat to the world, to free the people of Iraq.

We've had a difficult year. There's no mincing of the word. We're in a tough fight now. We're fighting terrorists. We're fighting people who would set a bomb off yesterday to target children who were coming out with their parents to view the opening of a new sewage project that had been completed, part of our reconstruction effort. These murderers knew that some Americans would be there, but they knew more than that, that their fellow citizens would be there. And they set the first bomb off knowing that that would attract more people, some Americans, but more often their own citizens. And they set a second bomb off and a third bomb off to kill those children. That's who we're fighting. That's who we're dealing with.

Today, American troops, along with their Iraqi colleagues, are fighting in a place called Samarra, to take that city back from these insurgents. The whole country is not in flames. The southern part of the country is reasonably secure. There are incidents, but reasonably secure. The northern part of the country, there are incidents, but reasonably

secure. The challenge is in the center, what's called the Sunni triangle. It's a challenge we will meet. We will prevail. We will build up the Iraqi forces as quickly as it is possible to build up the Iraqi forces; it doesn't happen overnight, and it's not just a matter of getting 300 guys together, giving them AK-47s and saying, "You're a force." It takes training, it takes leadership, it takes equipment, making sure they know what they're doing and then integrating them into sensible military organizations. And that's happening now under the leadership of a great General, General David Petraeus.

We have a political strategy that leads to elections at the end of this year and no later than the end of January of 2005. We have a reconstruction strategy that says we have billions of dollars, American dollars that we will commit to the Iraqi people to rebuild your society and rebuild your country. And we're not alone. I co-chaired a conference in Madrid last year that raised \$14 billion. That money hasn't really started to flow yet in significant amounts because we've got to get the security situation under control to make sure the money will be well spent.

Next week, there will be another conference -- the week after next, I should say -- another conference on financing, a donor conference for Iraq that will be held in Japan. And my Deputy, Deputy Secretary Richard Armitage, will be representing the United States.

So nations are coming forward, they are contributing. They're standing alongside of us in Iraq, not just the British. The Japanese are there, the South Koreans are there, Romanians, Bulgarians. And you should listen to some of the Eastern Europeans when they tell you why they're there. You should listen to some of these nations that used to be behind the Iron Curtain, that used to be part of the Warsaw Pact, that used to be on my target list, as I kid with them. I ask them, "Why are you there?" It's because they know what freedom is. "We know what it was like to be oppressed. We know what it was like to be behind that Iron Curtain. We know what it's like when nobody is willing to stand up with you for your freedom. The Iraqi people deserve to be free, and we will stand alongside you to help them achieve their freedom."

It was the right thing to do, and it will be the right thing to do to stick with it, to defeat this insurgency. It's going to be tough, it's going to be difficult; but it is doable. It will be done. And we will all be proud when the day comes that Iraq is standing on its own two feet, elected its own leaders, it has a constitution that it has ratified. We know what that constitution is going to look like. We've already seen it in the form of a Transitional Administrative Law: rights for minorities -- recognizing that the Shias are the majority, but

rights from the minorities, rights for women. Schools will be opening. More reconstruction will take place. And when that job has been done, and when the Iraqi forces are able to take care of their own security, then our troops will come home, having done the job.

I was one of them for 35 years, and I have been retired for ten years now, but I still have never been as proud of our young men and women as I am today, watching them in these difficult circumstances doing a job for oppressed people, doing a job for peace and security, doing a job for the American people. They are great young men and women, and you should be so very proud of them and of their families and of the sacrifices that they make for us every single day.

This, nevertheless, is going to be a challenging time, a challenging period. There are other challenges that we have to deal with. It's not all Iran, Iraq, North Korea and Afghanistan. We have a challenge in the Sudan. We're working hard to help a people desperately in need in the western section of Sudan, a place called Darfur. Your government has been in the forefront of calling attention to this crisis, getting a ceasefire arrangement put in place, which, unfortunately, has not taken hold. We've been in the forefront of humanitarian aid, giving hundreds of millions of dollars, calling it what it is: genocide. We have been in the forefront of working with the African Union in placing monitors in Darfur to help in bringing pressure on the Sudanese Government. We're in the forefront of working with the African Union now to expand the size of its force in Darfur to help these desperate people.

In Iran and North Korea we are hard at work, working with friends and partners to stop their efforts toward nuclear weapons and to cause them to reverse their actions. It's possible. We saw it in Libya. Libya has gotten rid of all of its weapons of mass destruction, and President Qadhafi, Colonel Qadhafi, when he was explaining it to his people, he said, "I spent all this money, I did everything I could to get these weapons of mass destruction, and all I found was I was less secure as a result of it. Not more secure, but less secure. So I got rid of it. It's all gone." North Korea and Iran will gain no security by having nuclear weapons.

Why are we working with six parties in the North Korean situation? Simple. North Korea is a threat to its neighbors more so than it is a threat to us. North Korea would like it to be just us and them, and then the game becomes, "What will you pay us for our misbehavior?" We've seen this before. It happened with the Agreed Framework and a deal was struck which capped their plutonium activities at a place called Yongbyon. But while that was capped and we could watch that, the North Koreans were off somewhere

else gaining the capability to develop nuclear weapons through enriched uranium processing. We're not going to fall for that again, and we're going to make that North Korea understands that its neighbors have as great an equity in solving this problem as the United States.

That's the way it should be. That's how you bring partners together. That's how you create coalitions. That's how you put pressure on a regime like North Korea -- not for the purpose of collapsing the regime. We don't want to attack it. We don't want to invade it. We have no hostile intent. We just want a denuclearized North Korean nation and a denuclearized Korean Peninsula, and I think it's achievable. And when the Chinese Foreign Minister visited with me yesterday afternoon and we talked about this, we went out in front of my Department, and before the world once again, said the six-party framework is the way to solve this problem. And I appreciate the strong leadership that the Chinese have been providing.

There are so many other issues that dominate the foreign policy debate. And it usually relates to a particular crisis or region of the world or a country. But there are other things that we do in foreign policy that are often referred to as "soft power." And I say to you that these soft power components of our foreign policy are perhaps even more important than some of the things that I've been talking about, because it's true the use of these soft power components, that you really are investing in the future, you're investing in the young people of the world, you're investing in democracy, you're investing in market economic reform.

One such program is called the Millennium Challenge Account. President Bush said we have to do more for the world. And so we've increased all the funding we give to the world through our U.S. Agency for International Development, and they do such great work. We're doubling the size of our Peace Corps; they do great work. We're scaling up all of those programs, but he said we've got to do more than that. We've got to invest in those nations that are committed to democracy, that are solidly anchored in the rule of law, that will have nothing to do with corruption, and who are investing in their people and who believe in a democratic future for their nation based on human rights and individual dignity.

And so we call it the Millennium Challenge Account. It's growing up now, and by 2006 fiscal year, \$5 billion a year of new money will be going to those nations in the developing world that have made these commitments. We have identified the first 16 nations to receive such funding. And they're excited, and you should hear the kinds of things they're talking to us about, how they want to

improve things within their country, how they're demonstrating that they will follow the rule of law and how they're going after corrupt officials.

So many other nations are now coming to me saying, "Well, how do we get into it? Why didn't we get picked the first time around?" "You've got to be solidly in the rule of law. You've got to prove it to me. I'm not going to give you money just because you want it. The rule of law, end corruption, democracy, let me see free elections. Let me see free elections. Let me see new parliaments coming in place. Let me see commitment to market reform. Let me see you get rid of these old state-run industries that are inefficient. Let me see you have clean water in your country. Is that what you're going to use our money for? How are you going to educate your young people? What skills are you going to give them? You show me that and we'll make a deal. We'll go to work together." This is the kind of foreign policy we're following, to invest in the people of the world, as well as deal with the crises that come along.

The greatest weapon of mass destruction on the face of the earth today is HIV/AIDS. We worry about casualties; we are saddened by terrorist attacks that kill large numbers of people. But 8,000 people will die today because of HIV/AIDS, and more than that will be infected. And so it is the major killer. It is reducing lifespan in country after country. It is spreading. And the President recognizes this; and that's why he not only helped with the creation of the Global Health Fund, but he decided we have to do more than that. That's not enough, and we're America, we can afford it, we have a responsibility to do even more.

And so he came up with an emergency fund that has allocated \$15 billion to this effort over the next several years. And we are now entering into contracts with countries around the world that are committed to do the right thing with respect to the education of their population, with respect to the use of contraceptives, and with respect to helping us make sure that people are not stigmatized simply because they have this disease. It is a disease that has to be dealt with and they have to be seen as fellow human beings and not stigmatized.

These are the things that we are engaged in. Foreign policy is challenging. I am not an academic. I am not a graduate of any of the great universities of foreign policy. I am not a lawyer who has come in from a private law firm. I'm a soldier who spent most of his life preparing for and dealing with the Cold War and other elements of the Cold War, parts of the Cold War, such as fighting in Vietnam.

I feel enormously privileged now to be Secretary of State, coming from the military, through America's Promise and

back into government as Secretary of State, dealing with these great challenges. Not dealing with the Cold War any more, and not dealing with the Soviet Union any more; but dealing with nation after nation throughout the world that has become free, that has become democratic, whether it used to be behind the Iron Curtain or whether it used to be in our own hemisphere, run by a general or a junta but is now a democracy.

I'm proud to be able to work with grand alliances, the best relationship with China that we've had since the beginning of our relationship with China. A new relationship with India that is the best relationship we've ever had with that great nation. Those two nations alone with two and a half billion people. Solid alliances throughout Asia with Japan, Thailand, Australia, so many friends that work with us.

Pleased to be able to, in the name of the President, push these programs of soft power. But we also know that sometimes hard choices come along, difficult problems come along that will not be simply resolved by wishing them away or having a conference or passing a resolution, where it is necessary to send young men and women in harm's way to achieve a noble purpose. We've done it many times in our history and over the past 100 years.

We've never asked for anything afterwards. We hope you'll be grateful. We hope you'll be our friend and partner. And we hope you will appreciate the sacrifice that our young men and women make for freedom and for democracy.

But above all, I am optimistic. I am optimistic because the United States still remains that nation in the world that is sometimes criticized, sometimes abused with words, but still looked to for inspiration, values system still admired, a nation that is often resented but more often respected.

And when I read about there's anti-American attitudes here and there and elsewhere, I have to be worried about that and work against those attitudes; but I'm reassured by the people who come to my office every day, ministers and leaders and young people that I speak to around the world or who come to see me in my office, who still see in America the beautiful place, the beautiful vision, the vision of free people, diverse free people who have come together, a nation that is touched by every nation, and in turn, we touch every nation; a nation that will continue to live out its destiny of helping people around the world achieve their own form of freedom, their own form of democracy so that their people, too, can live as God intended them to live: free, constrained only by their own dreams and their ability to achieve those dreams and work toward those dreams.

That's what we have stood for and that's what we will continue to stand for. Thank you very much.

*EPF105 10/04/2004

Excerpt: China Cooperating on Verifying Technology Exports, Official Says

(Commerce Department's Juster cites milestone initiatives with China, India)

The Bush administration is pleased that China is finally allowing U.S. teams to verify that advanced technology shipped to China from the United States has not been diverted to unintended uses, a high-level Commerce Department official says.

In October 4 remarks to reporters, Commerce Under Secretary Kenneth Juster said that such end-use visits by his bureau's teams have become more routine since the two countries reached an agreement in April.

Before that agreement, the Chinese had for years frustrated Commerce Department teams attempting to make sure that computers and other technology shipped under U.S. export license for nonmilitary use was not diverted to military use.

Now, Juster said, the teams are making their visits to sites on the schedule worked out in April without "any resistance." To date, he said, the teams have found no diversions from intended use.

Juster talked with reporters after delivering the keynote address at the Commerce Department's Update 2004 Conference on Export Controls and Policy.

In his address Juster said he considered the China end-use agreement as one milestone accomplishment of the past year and U.S.-India collaboration on export controls as another.

In the first phase of that initiative, India has agreed to take measures to halt proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to assure that U.S. advanced technology shipped to India is not diverted from intended use.

In return, the United States has modified its export control licensing policies to enable U.S.-India cooperation in commercial space programs and allow exports to power plants at safeguarded Indian nuclear facilities.

"We look forward to further progress in strengthening our economic ties with India as we also work together as partners in the war on terrorism," Juster said.

Turning to the Middle East and North Africa, he described how the United States was relaxing export controls for Iraq after Saddam Hussein was ousted and for Libya after the government of Muammar Qadhafi moved toward ending support for terrorism.

"The administration is prepared to respond positively to improved behavior, even by the most isolated of countries," Juster said. "The United States has always demonstrated that it has no permanent adversarial relationship with any country."

He also described, however, how the United States was tightening export controls for Syria because that country continues to support terrorism.

"This situation will not change unless and until Syria decides to make fundamental modifications in its national policy," Juster said.

Following is an excerpt from the text of Juster's address as prepared for delivery:

*Keynote Address of Kenneth L. Juster
Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security
At the Update 2004 Conference on Export Controls and Policy*

October 4, 2004

Washington, D.C.

Export Control Highlights

As even this brief review makes clear, we have had a very productive year working at the intersection of industry and security. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the men and women I am privileged to lead, we have been able to accomplish all of these goals while also strengthening our core function -- the development, implementation, and enforcement of export controls on dual-use commodities, technology, and software. This has been a year of enormous activity. Take licensing, the most visible part of the system. We processed over 15,000 license applications, an increase of almost 25 percent over the previous fiscal year. Of these applications, approximately 84 percent were approved, with the remainder either denied or returned without action. Because American companies operate in an increasingly competitive world market, we know that they require prompt and equitable licensing decisions in order to

be considered as reliable suppliers. Recognizing this, we are constantly striving to further improve our licensing process, and I think we are largely succeeding.

Licensing decisions, of course, are only the tip of the iceberg. They are the "downstream" part of a process that begins with policy. And in the past year we have seen unprecedented changes in our overall trade and security policies, with the Bureau of Industry and Security ensuring that dual-use export controls have adapted to these changes.

Streamlining Controls to Benefit Exporters

Our policy objective is to control exactly what is necessary to protect national security and foreign policy interests -- no more and no less. Toward this end, we have diligently sought to assist the exporting community by streamlining our export controls. For example:

-- The Bureau has prepared a draft rule that would allow U.S. companies to release higher levels of computer technology and software to eligible foreign nationals working in the United States. We expect to publish this rule soon. Moreover, if the Wassenaar Expert Group agrees to raise the threshold for actual exports of computer technology, the Bureau is prepared to publish a second rule covering such exports.

-- The Bureau has also drafted a rule to raise the current microprocessor technology license requirement threshold level for foreign nationals working in the United States on the design, development, and production of general purpose microprocessors. Because microprocessor technology accounts for well over 20 percent of all deemed export licenses annually, increasing this threshold level will provide a measure of relief from licensing requirements. Again, if the Wassenaar Expert Group agrees to raise the threshold for actual exports of microprocessor technology, the Bureau is prepared to publish a rule covering such exports.

-- The Bureau has also obtained interagency agreement for our proposal to implement a number of process improvements for deemed export licensing renewals. We are now granting automatic six-month extensions for existing deemed export licenses if an exporter has submitted both a renewal license application and a written request for extension of the existing license. We have also reached agreement for expediting requests for technology upgrades of existing deemed export licenses by having the agencies agree to make their best efforts to process such applications in 20 days.

Middle East Transformations -- Liberalizations and Restrictions

We are also adapting our controls to geopolitical realities and policy priorities. The Middle East has been a particular area of focus:

Iraq. For example, now that Iraq no longer suffers from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein, we have modified our export controls to suit the dramatically changed situation there. Export licensing jurisdiction has transferred from the Treasury Department to our Bureau, and a wide range of items are now eligible for export to Iraq that previously were off limits. Our export policy seeks to open doors toward Iraq where it is prudent to do so, while retaining controls where necessary to ensure security.

Libya. The Libyan government wisely concluded last year that supporting terrorism and developing weapons of mass destruction had led only to economic isolation. No doubt, the U.S. Government's firm resolve to stand against terrorist regimes and weapons proliferators helped persuade Colonel Qadhafi that it was in his best interest to pursue a more responsible course.

And so, as we gain confidence that Libya is in fact acting to become a member in good standing in the community of nations, we are embarking on a gradual process of export control liberalization. Although the State Department still officially designates Libya as a terrorist supporting state, Libya is no longer a pariah. As a result, and in line with these developments, we have promulgated an important regulation that generally permits the resumption of trade in lower technology items, and we are open to possible further trade control modifications depending on Libya's performance.

It should thus be clear that the Administration is prepared to respond positively to improved behavior, even by the most isolated of countries. The United States has always demonstrated that it has no permanent adversarial relationship with any country. On the contrary, just as it has been throughout the history of our nation, we seek peaceful and productive relations with all who abide by the norms of civilized behavior.

Of course, we are also prepared to take tough action to defend our security and foreign policy interests when the situation calls for it.

Syria. Unfortunately, Syria presents us with just such a case. The Syrian government continues to support terrorism at a time when the civilized world is engaged in a war on terrorism. It also continues to occupy the sovereign state of Lebanon. Accordingly, the Congress enacted new sanctions

legislation against Syria, and the Bureau has modified its export controls in line with this legislation. Although Syria had already been designated by the State Department as a terrorist supporting country, the recent sanctions legislation further tightens controls. It used to be that unlisted items subject to Commerce Department licensing jurisdiction, known in our regulations as EAR 99 items, could generally be exported to Syria without a license. With few exceptions, this is no longer the case. Most EAR 99 items now require a license for export to Syria, and there is a general presumption of denial for most of these transactions. This situation will not change unless and until Syria decides to make fundamental modifications in its national policy.

Strengthening Multilateral Export Control Regimes

In addition to responding to changes in the geopolitical environment, the Administration has worked over the past year to combat proliferation by strengthening the four multilateral export control regimes. The Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, and the Wassenaar Arrangement represent the foundation of our strategic trade control agenda. The memberships of these regimes agree on the lists of items and technologies subject to control and the guidelines for implementing those controls. Then we write the regulations to make this happen.

During the past year, we have sought to strengthen both the control lists and the guidelines to reflect current world security realities. For example:

-- The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) joined other nonproliferation regimes by adding a "catch-all" control to its guidelines. The United States has also been seeking to tighten the NSG guidelines so as to control the production of fissile materials by denying enrichment technology to countries that do not already possess it. Fissile material is the principal choke point for the development of nuclear weapons. Thus, by restricting the availability of enrichment technology, we hope to limit the availability of the fissile material that makes nuclear weapons possible.

-- In the Missile Technology Control Regime, members agreed to add controls on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in light of their possible use by terrorists and pariah nations as platforms for weapons delivery systems.

-- The Australia Group agreed to expand the list of biological agents that it controls, given the growing concerns about the possible use of such agents in a terrorist or military operation.

-- And, last but not least, the Wassenaar Plenary in 2003 approved a number of major initiatives that break important new ground and make significant contributions to the fight against terrorism. These included tightening controls over Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS); agreeing to enhance transparency of small arms and light Weapons (SALW) transfers; establishing elements for national legislation on arms brokering; and adopting "catch-all" controls that encourage member governments to impose export restrictions on certain unlisted items when necessary to support United Nations or regional arms embargoes.

Expanding International Export Control Cooperation

Our work with our regime partners is important, but in today's world, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery is everyone's problem. The acquisition and use of such weapons by terrorists or pariah countries is one of the principal threats to world security, not just U.S. security. Because the problem is global, the only effective means to attack it must be global as well.

Export controls are one important layer in our multi-layered global approach to nonproliferation. But, as we all know, the international system of export controls is only as strong as its weakest link. So we must work with our partners to strengthen export controls worldwide. This effort took a major step forward in April of this year, when the world community followed our lead by adopting U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540, which calls on members to establish and maintain effective export controls and comply with international arms control agreements. This landmark Resolution sets forth a critical framework for global compliance with acceptable norms of international behavior. It supports the export control measures we have been implementing within the four multilateral regimes, as well as the cooperative activities we have been undertaking with countries outside the regimes, including those that serve as major transshipment hubs for sensitive commodities.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540 is also a call more broadly for international cooperation to enhance trade security. Here, too, we have been active. For example, during the past year, our Office of International Programs has conducted over 80 technical exchanges with foreign delegations, both in the United States and abroad. The focus of our exchanges has ranged from the basic elements of developing an export control system to the more complex issues related to identifying possible illicit shipments in international commerce. The good news is that these programs are working. Take the countries of the former

Warsaw Pact, which initially were a principal focus of our technical cooperation program. Now, many of these countries are members of one or more of the multilateral export control regimes. Romania, for instance, is taking a leadership role in the Wassenaar regime by chairing a task force on Export Control Documentation.

We are also securing successes elsewhere beyond our borders. Indeed, my colleagues and I are pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with each of the foreign governments represented here today on a broad range of trade and security issues. For example:

-- We are cooperating with Russia in efforts to dismantle nuclear weapons facilities and to expedite the items needed for such operations. Since the end of the Cold War, our cooperative work with Russia and other newly independent States of the former Soviet Union has expanded enormously.

-- The Bureau also leads the Commerce Department's Transshipment Country Export Control Initiative, which we developed to reach out to the major shipping hubs around the world, such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Panama, Cyprus, and Malta. The authorities in these countries want to deny their seaports, airports, and territory to illegal trade that transits their countries, and they are working actively with us to accomplish that objective.

-- This year we have also continued our government-to-government dialogue with Israel on high-technology and strategic trade issues, including discussions on encryption policy and regulations. We will continue to work with Israel on a wide array of trade and security issues.

-- We are also engaging with Pakistan in a serious effort to forge closer cooperation in the area of strategic trade controls. Pakistan has become a key partner in the war on terrorism, and we are developing a partnership in the export control arena as well.

-- Most recently, I met with the Unification Minister of the Republic of Korea to discuss the plans for a major industrial complex that will be constructed just across the border in North Korea. This industrial complex is a major priority for the Republic of Korea, because it will be beneficial in trying to ease relations between North and South. We are prepared to work constructively with our colleagues in the interagency community to identify the control status of U.S.-origin items that might be intended for export to this complex.

-- And, of course, we continue to work closely with long-time members of the multilateral regimes, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Canada, France, and Switzerland, to make these regimes more effective as well as reach out to nonregime countries on export control issues.

From our perspective, while all of these international cooperative activities are important in security terms, they also benefit industry. They help create a level playing field for companies with international business operations, while enhancing the security environment for those operations. Moreover, as we gain confidence that countries are implementing export controls in a manner consistent with international standards, we are better able to accord them favorable treatment in the realm of strategic trade. In short, we want to see sound security practices as an underlying and necessary feature of the international trading system. Such security measures should be viewed by those who enact them as a competitive asset rather than a competitive liability.

Nowhere is the reinforcing relationship between trade and security more evident than in the activities of our export control attaches. The attaches help us ensure that we are supporting American exports abroad, as well as working with our foreign counterparts to prevent export violations. In Fiscal Year 2004, we added new attaches in Hong Kong and Moscow to those already in Beijing and Abu Dhabi, and one will be starting in New Delhi later this month.

These five attaches play a key role in our system of end-use verification visits, which are designed to facilitate trade within the context of security requirements. Pre-license visits verify the bona fides of end-users to receive controlled commodities and technology. They are often needed when there is doubt regarding the substance of the end-user's business activities. And postshipment verifications are often useful to certify that items have arrived at their authorized destination and are being used for their intended purpose. Both of these are critical elements in the administration of credible export controls, and thereby promote exports.

Indeed, our position is simple and clear: When countries permit us the access we need to gain the assurance provided by end-use checks, we are in a position to be more flexible in our export licensing policy. When such access is denied or made excessively difficult to achieve, we are unable to offer such flexibility. During the past fiscal year, we have completed approximately 600 end-use visits in close to 100 different countries. These visits have helped both to support decisions to approve export licenses as well as to uncover inappropriate endusers.

Export Enforcement

The final piece of the process is enforcement. An effective enforcement program is a cornerstone of any credible export control system. Without penalties sufficient to deter would-be violators, export controls have no credibility.

During Fiscal Year 2004, Export Enforcement continued its trend of significant accomplishments in enforcement actions and penalties. Specifically, in Fiscal Year 2004:

-- Investigations by Export Enforcement agents led to the conviction of over 30 individuals and companies in criminal cases.

-- Export Enforcement also completed over 60 administrative settlements and imposed civil penalties for export violations totaling over \$6 million.

As a matter of policy, Export Enforcement seeks to target the most sensitive commodities and the end users of greatest concern. For example:

-- Export Enforcement's increased emphasis on biological toxins resulted in an investigation of Maine Biological Labs of Winslow, Maine, and guilty pleas by seven individuals involved in a conspiracy to smuggle live viruses into the United States. Another investigation led to a jury verdict in the Northern District of Texas that found the defendant guilty on 47 criminal counts, including illegally exporting the Bubonic Plague to Tanzania.

-- An Export Enforcement investigation also led to the indictment of two individuals on charges relating to material support of terrorism, in part for attempting to export controlled night vision equipment to Hizballah in Lebanon.

-- And in July of this year, a jury in the Northern District of Texas found Infocom Corporation and five of its members guilty of export violations involving the shipment of computers and related equipment to Syria and Libya.

We have had a good year; but we need to continue to staff up for success. To that end, Export Enforcement opened in Houston its first Resident Agent Office, to address 'strategic trade in that area. The office is staffed with one Resident Agent-in-Charge and three Special Agents. We are also on track to hire a new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement and a new Director of our Office of Export Enforcement.

Outreach

As you can see, we have been busy. But we can only do so much by ourselves. For the system to work, we need your assistance. So we put great emphasis on helping industry to understand and comply with our regulations. Indeed, this past year, we have conducted close to 200 outreach events, both in the United States and abroad. And today, of course, we launch our number one outreach event for Fiscal Year 2005, our Update Conference.

The Role of Export Controls

It is always a great pleasure to review our Bureau's accomplishments. But it is equally important to step back and place these activities in a broader context. The more we can appreciate why we take the actions we do, the more effective those actions can be. I hope it will also help deepen your understanding of the presentations you will hear today and tomorrow.

When the Cold War ended, many thought that the basis for maintaining a vigorous export control system had ended as well. But if the collapse of the Berlin Wall on 11/9/1989 gave the incorrect impression that export controls were no longer needed, the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001 put that issue to rest. Although, with globalization, our world has become a highly competitive economic environment, it also remains a dangerous place. In the post-9/11 world, we face the multifaceted threats posed not only by countries that seek power through the development of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, but also by stateless enemies that would use our technologies against us. In this environment, export controls will continue to play an important role in international trade. Indeed, in our view, trade and security are more closely intertwined than ever before, and legitimate trade can only flourish if it is built on a foundation of security.

The role of dual-use export controls is to establish the conditions that make trade in sensitive items possible. Given the security implications if these items fall into the wrong hands, they simply could not be exported without oversight. At the same time, we need to make sure that our controls do not impede the flow of legitimate trade. The Bureau of Industry and Security, therefore, is both a facilitator of exports and a vital cog in the U.S. national security structure. Properly understood, these are complementary rather than mutually exclusive mandates.

Export controls should thus be seen not as an obstacle or barrier to trade, but as a pathway to trade, with a fence around the perimeter of that path. If companies and countries abide by the laws, regulations, and procedures

that we have established with regard to the use of sensitive U.S. goods and technologies, then we can develop the level of confidence and comfort needed to enable such trade. On the other hand, failure to abide by such laws, regulations, and procedures will have a detrimental effect on the scope and level of trade in sensitive U.S. items. In the end, we want to engage in legitimate civilian and commercial trade, while preventing the wrongful diversion of sensitive items.

Each of us in this audience has a role to play in making that a reality. Indeed, the job today of coordinating trade and security interests cannot be done by government alone. It requires a partnership between government and industry, both within and among countries in the international trading system. In that manner, we can all work together for our common welfare.

I am therefore pleased to say that, in the past year, we have had milestone accomplishments with the world's two most populous countries -- India and China.

-- We are engaged in an active and fruitful collaboration with India that has enabled us to liberalize controls. Indeed, this Bureau is playing a key role in the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership initiative with India, and concluded Phase One of that initiative last month. This has involved the implementation of measures to address proliferation issues and to ensure that U.S.-origin items are used in accordance with U.S. export control requirements. Those measures have, in turn, enabled us to modify U.S. export licensing policies to foster increased cooperation in commercial space programs and permit certain exports to power plants at safeguarded nuclear facilities. We look forward to further progress in strengthening our economic ties with India as we also work together as partners in the war on terrorism.

-- With respect to China, at the April meeting of the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, we reached an understanding with the Chinese on procedures for strengthening end-use visit cooperation. We firmly believe that this move will help facilitate expanded trade in high-technology and other controlled items. We are also pleased to welcome China into the Nuclear Suppliers Group, as a partner against nuclear proliferation.

Conclusion

In sum, the world landscape has changed dramatically since President Bush took the oath of office in January 2001. In these tumultuous times, the Bureau of Industry and Security has been charged with the responsibility of adapting strategic trade policy to meet new challenges and opportunities. This has meant tightening controls when

necessary to address emerging threats, liberalizing controls where appropriate, partnering with the private sector to expand trade on a foundation of security, and working extensively with like-minded countries. We are committed to providing the exporting community with the best possible service within the context of our overall responsibilities. I know I am biased, but I think that we are doing a very good job. We will, of course, always strive to do better. We look to you for advice regarding how we can improve our services and the overall way we conduct business. Something tells me I will not have to ask twice.

During the rest of this conference, you will have the opportunity to hear about the details of all the current policy and program work that I have introduced this morning. My colleagues and I look forward to meeting with you and learning from you.

Thank you again for joining us here today. And thank you for your commitment to make our export control system work better for all of us.

*EPF113 10/04/2004

United States Acts as Guardian of World's Endangered Species

(Endangered species meeting addresses life forms within, outside North America)

By M. Charlene Porter
Washington File Staff

Washington -- Plants and animals from many parts of the world are the focus of talks at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The U.S. delegation attends with a protection agenda that includes species both native to North America and to other regions of the globe.

CITES is widely viewed as one of the world's most successful and effective environmental treaties because of the cooperation and commitment that nations have demonstrated in acting to protect species recognized to be at risk. The treaty applies to species threatened by commerce and commits its parties to regulating trade in listed species through a system of permits and quotas.

"CITES relies upon individual nations taking action within their own jurisdictions to permit, to examine certificates of import-export; that's how trade is regulated," said Craig Manson, assistant secretary of the interior and the head of the U.S. delegation at the October 2-14 meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. "We have seen dramatic effects of regulating

trade in species that are threatened or endangered and it's been done in a largely cooperative effort through CITES."

Business interests and environmental interests are frequently thought to be separated by a broad ideological chasm, but, in the case of CITES, trade and commerce provide the context for environmental protections.

"The CITES conferences are major environmental events because they produce enforceable decisions and practical actions for conserving wild nature and the Earth's biological diversity," said Klaus Toepfer, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme, which administers the CITES Secretariat.

This year, two important U.S. priorities ensure greater protections for two foreign sea creatures -- the great white shark and the humphead wrasse, a coral reef fish. The United States will support a proposal entered by Australia and Madagascar seeking greater regulation of trade of these slow-growing, warm water sharks. The animals' teeth, fins and jaws are profitable for legal and illegal harvesting.

The United States has introduced the proposal to protect the humphead wrasse, now vulnerable to overfishing, Manson said, at the same time that dredging, mining, sewage and sedimentation threaten its fragile environment.

The United States also has introduced proposals to add five more species of Asian turtles to the CITES protected list. The at-risk status of turtles and tortoises is already widely recognized. Various body parts of these creatures may be used as food or in traditional Asian medicines; pet markets create an additional demand. Recognition of their declining numbers has already led to the inclusion of 26 species native to South, Southeast and East Asia on the CITES protected list.

The United States is taking complementary actions on the domestic front. In July, President Bush signed into law the Marine Turtle Conservation Act, which earmarks up to \$5 million a year for U.S. conservationists to use in supporting foreign governments' programs to protect the endangered sea turtles.

"Turtles depend on the oceans and nesting beaches of many nations to survive," said Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as the new law took effect earlier this year. "This act will reduce poaching, improve management and monitoring, and support local conservation efforts in areas of the world where needs are greatest."

The United States also is making greater investments in the protection of threatened life forms at home. In late September, Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced more than \$70 million in grants to U.S. states to help support conservation and habitat preservation efforts. The various projects across 28 states will protect species as diverse as beetles, squirrels and bighorn sheep.

The actions are taken under the authority of the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, an important legal law intended to conserve plant and animal species. Currently, more than 1,800 species, domestic and international, are listed as endangered or threatened species. The law requires U.S. government agencies to undertake programs for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and prohibits them from authorizing, funding, or carrying out any action that would jeopardize a listed species or destroy or modify its "critical habitat."

(Preceding items distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)